REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2007. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were pending. In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The objections and rejections are discussed in more detail below.

I.   Rejections on Art and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,382,028 to Wooh et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,638 to Nottingham et al. Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
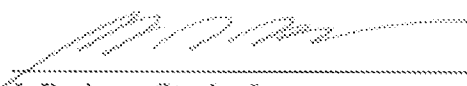
Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. Nevertheless, the subject matter of claim 3 has been duly added to claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Certain features of claim 1 have been removed and forms the basis of new claim 10.

II.   Conclusion

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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